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—States-Item photo.

EXAMINING A MAP OF San Juan are, from left, FRANKIE REXACH, incoming president of the Department of Commerce of Puerto Rico; JERRY SANTERRE, assistant secretary of commerce for the Caribbean island, and their New Orleans host, PAUL A. FABRE, managing director of International House.

5 Puerto Ricans in N.O. To Study Trade Centers

Five delegates for the Department of Commerce of Puerto Rico are in New Orleans today to study the organization of this city's trade centers and facilities.

"We came here to capitalize on your experiences," said Frankie Rexach, incoming president of the department. He and other officials from the territorial Caribbean island prepared to visit the International Trade Mart, International House and the Rivergate exhibition facility.

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The New Orleans study is a prelude to the establishment of a similar giant trade center in the Puerto Rican capital city of San Juan.

"We are getting the nuts and bolts of it now," said Jerry Santerre, Puerto Rican assistant secretary of commerce. "There will be committees visiting New Orleans later to study the hundreds of details."

THE DELEGATES tight schedule will carry them to Miami tomorrow for a look at the Miami Merchandise Mart.

"We are planning kind of three-pronged facility," Santerre explained. "It will be a mart, a free trade center and a central warehouse." The center will establish Puerto Rico as "the commercial hub of the Carribbean" Santerre said.

Temporary plans calll for the center to be set up in a San Juan hotel building, until urban planning for the New San Juan Center is completed.

"WE WANT to get our feet wet before we crash into the big project," Rexach said.

The new city center will be located in Hato Rey, an area which has been described as the "Wall Street of San Juan." It includes a mode city project, a navigable channel to the Carribean, and governmental and commercial buildings, one of which will be the new trade center.

INITIAL STEPS for financing the center have been taken by private industry, Rexach said, with the cooperation of the Department of Commerce and the Ecnomic Administration of Puerto Rico. Both the insular government and the U.S. federal government are interested in the project, he added.

The New Orleans study is being supplemented by an original study made here in 1956 by businessman Clay Shaw.

"Shaws' paper is an excellent report," Santerre said. "Many things he predicted in 1956 are happening right noww